

Educational Attainment

In the At a Glance series we have taken a look at wages, income inequality and poverty. One very important factor that weighs heavily on all these issues is the level of education of Miami-Dade residents. In this issue of At a Glance, we take a look at the educational level of the County's population. First, we will look at the situation for the entire population over time, and then compare this to the state and the nation. Finally, we will examine how educational attainment differs among various segments of the population.

Looking back historically, over the past four decades, it is clear that there have been significant improvements in the educational attainment level in the County. The most significant gains took place in the 1970's and in the period since the year 2000. The percent of the population 25 years and over who had not completed high school has come down from 53.4% in 1960 to 23.8% in 2006, while the proportion of college graduates has increased from 8.4% to 34.4% in the same period. Throughout this report the data on educational attainment includes only persons 25 years and above.

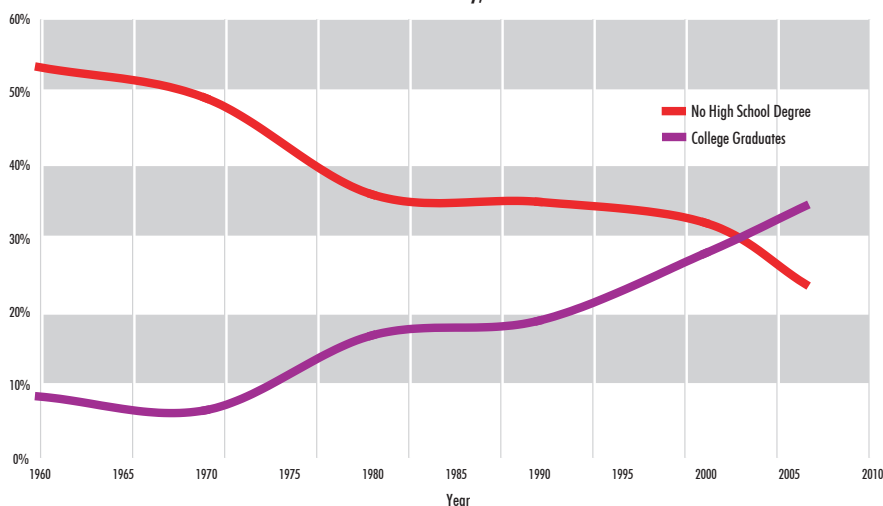
When comparing Miami-Dade to the state and the nation what is found is that the proportion of the population with higher education degrees is similar to that of Florida and the U.S. However, among those without a higher education degree, there are more persons lacking a high school degree in the County relative to the state and the nation. In particular, at 12.7% the share of the population in the county with less than a 9th grade education is almost twice the share for the nation at 6.5% (See Chart 2 and Table 2). Similar to the data on income inequality previously presented in At a Glance, educational attainment is more skewed in Miami-Dade County than in the country as a whole.

In terms of different ethnic groups within the County, marked differences are present. In

2006, 54.7% of Non-Hispanic Whites had a college degree or higher, while the comparable figure for Hispanics was 32% and 20% for Non-Hispanic Blacks.

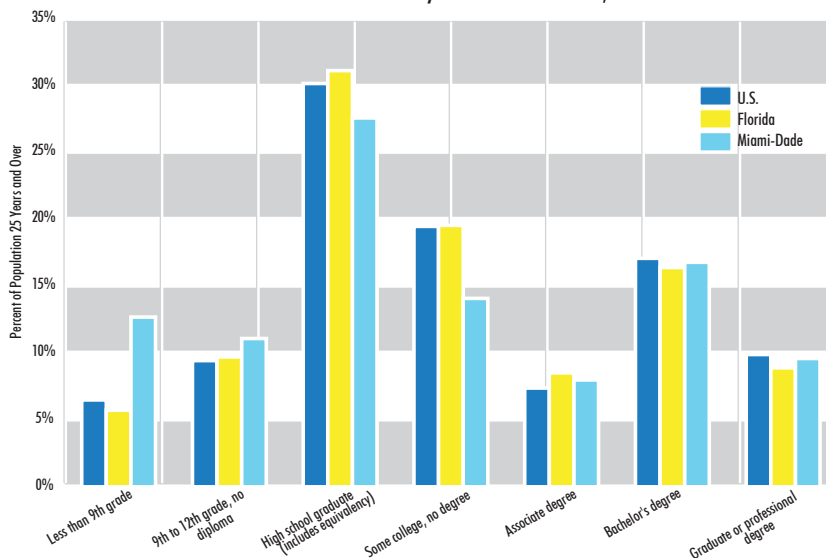
The difference in the share of college graduation rates

Chart 1:
Educational Attainment Levels for Persons 25 and Above
Miami-Dade County, 1960 - 2006



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census 1960 - 2000, American Community Survey 2006. Prepared by Miami-Dade County, Department of Planning and Zoning 2008.

Chart 2:
Comparative Educational Attainment
Miami-Dade County and United States, 2006



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2006. Miami-Dade County, Department of Planning and Zoning 2008.
Note: Data are estimates based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability

between the above-mentioned groups has grown since the 1970s as shown in Chart 3 and Table 3.

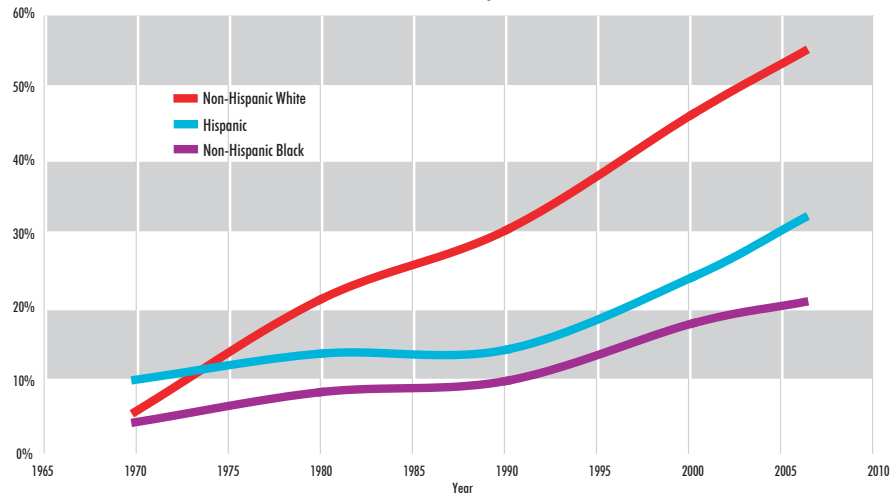
The percentage of those with less than a high school degree for Hispanics and Blacks is more than three times that for Non-Hispanic Whites. For Blacks the figure is 29.8%, for Hispanics 27.1% and for White Non-Hispanics just 7.8%. This information plus the historic trend can be seen in Chart 4.

In terms of gender, currently the differences are not significant, although in the future we expect to see higher levels of education for females given the trends observed in the school enrolment data.

A breakdown that is worth looking at for 2006 is the different levels of education by place of birth. Those persons that are foreign born have the lowest level of educational attainment, while those from other states are the mostly highly educated. This is evidenced by the high proportion of college graduates shown in Chart 5 and Table 5.

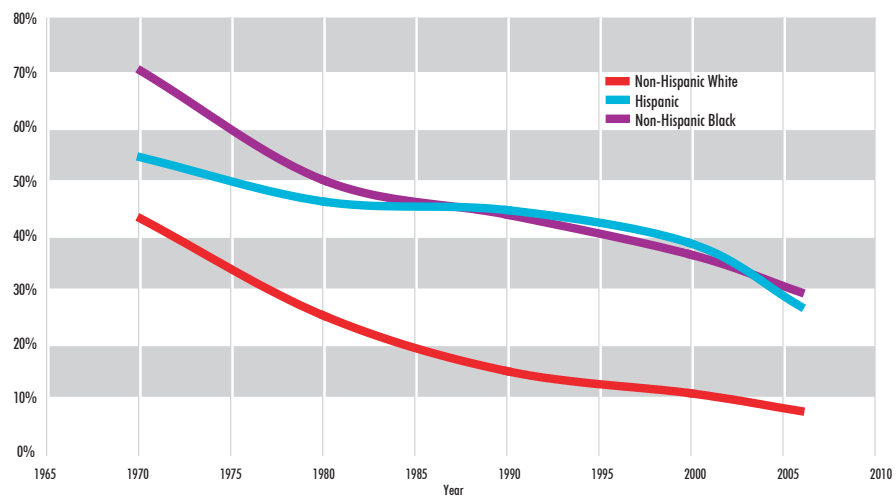
A common theme throughout this issue is the improvements by all groups in the County in terms of education during the past 36 years. This trend is likely to continue albeit at a slower pace in the coming years. Substantiation for this trend can be derived by examining the difference in educational attainment between those who are 25 to 44 years old and those 44 and older.

Chart 3: Persons 25 Years and Above, with College Degree or Higher by Ethnicity, Miami-Dade County, 1970 - 2006



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census 1970 - 2000, American Community Survey 2006. Prepared by Miami-Dade County, Department of Planning and Zoning 2008.

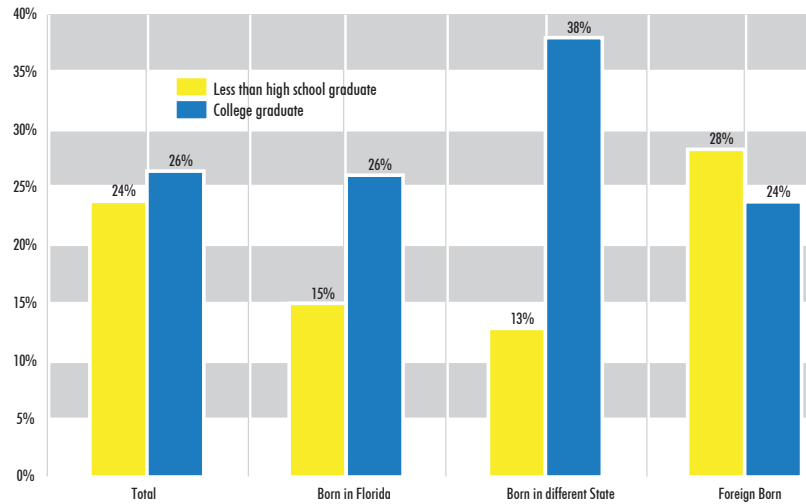
Chart 4: Persons 25 Years and Above with Less Than High School Degree, by Ethnicity, Miami-Dade County, 1970 - 2006



* All People excluding Blacks and Hispanics.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census 1970 - 2000, American Community Survey 2006. Prepared by Miami-Dade County, Department of Planning and Zoning 2008.

Chart 5:
Educational Attainment by Place of Birth, Miami Dade County, 2006



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2006. Miami-Dade County, Department of Planning and Zoning 2008.
Note: Data from ACS 2006 are estimates based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability

**Table 1: Educational Attainment by
Persons 25 Years Old and Over
in Miami-Dade County**

| | 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2006 |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| No High School Degree | 53.4% | 49.1% | 36.0% | 35.0% | 32.1% | 23.8% |
| College Graduates | 8.4% | 6.6% | 16.8% | 18.8% | 28.0% | 34.4% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary Tape File 3, Census of Population 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000, General Social and Economic Characteristics, Miami-Dade's County of Department of Planning and Zoning, 2003.

**Table 2: Comparative Educational Attainment
United States, Florida and Miami-Dade, 2006**

| | US | Florida | Miami-Dade |
|--|-------|---------|------------|
| Less than 9th grade | 6.5% | 5.7% | 12.7% |
| 9th to 12th grade, no diploma | 9.4% | 9.7% | 11.1% |
| High school graduate (includes equivalency) | 30.2% | 31.1% | 27.6% |
| Some college, no degree | 19.5% | 19.6% | 14.1% |
| Associate degree | 7.4% | 8.5% | 8.0% |
| Bachelor's degree | 17.1% | 16.4% | 16.8% |
| Graduate or professional degree | 9.9% | 8.9% | 9.6% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary Tape File 3, Census of Population 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000, General Social and Economic Characteristics, Miami-Dade's County of Department of Planning and Zoning, 2003.

**Table 3: Educational Attainment by Race and Hispanic Origin
Persons 25 Years Old and Over 1970 - 2006**

| | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2006 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Whites Non Hispanic and Other Races* | | | | | |
| No High School Degree | 43.3% | 25.4% | 15.1% | 11.1% | 7.8% |
| College Graduates | 5.7% | 21.0% | 30.4% | 46.2% | 54.7% |
| Blacks | | | | | |
| No High School Degree | 70.6% | 50.4% | 44.0% | 36.7% | 29.8% |
| College Graduates | 4.2% | 8.4% | 9.9% | 17.7% | 20.6% |
| Hispanics | | | | | |
| No High School Degree | 54.6% | 46.5% | 44.9% | 38.8% | 27.1% |
| College Graduates | 10.0% | 13.6% | 14.1% | 24.0% | 32.0% |

* All people excluding Blacks and Hispanics

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary Tape File 3, Census of Population 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000, American Community Survey 2006.
Prepared by Miami-Dade's County of Department of Planning and Zoning, 2008.

**Table 4: Educational Attainment, Miami-Dade County,
2000 and 2006**

| | 2006 | 2000 |
|---|-------|-------|
| Less than 9th grade | 12.7% | 14.7% |
| 9th to 12th grade, no diploma | 11.1% | 17.4% |
| High school graduate (includes equivalency) | 27.6% | 22.3% |
| Some college, no degree | 14.1% | 17.6% |
| Associate degree | 8.0% | 6.3% |
| Bachelor's degree | 16.8% | 12.3% |
| Graduate or professional degree | 9.6% | 9.3% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2006.
Miami-Dade County, Department of Planning and Zoning 2008. Note: The data includes only persons 25 years and greater.

**Table 5: Educational Attainment by Place of Birth,
Miami-Dade County, 2006**

| | Less than high school graduate | College Graduate |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Total | 23.8% | 26.5% |
| Born in Florida | 15.0% | 26.1% |
| Born in different State | 12.9% | 38.0% |
| Foreign Born | 28.3% | 23.8% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census 2000 and American Community Survey 2006.
Miami-Dade County, Department of Planning and Zoning 2008. Note: The data includes only persons 25 years and greater.

**Table 6: Educational Attainment by Age Group and Gender,
Miami-Dade County, 2000 and 2006**

| | Total | Male | Female |
|---|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Population 18 to 24 years | 235,528 | 118,114 | 117,414 |
| Less than high school graduate | 19.3 | 23.5 | 15 |
| High school graduate (includes equivalency) | 38.1 | 36.6 | 39.6 |
| Some college or associate's degree | 35.3 | 32.8 | 37.7 |
| Bachelor's degree or higher | 7.4 | 7.1 | 7.7 |
| Population 25 years and over | 1,591,915 | 751,745 | 840,170 |
| Less than 9th grade | 12.7 | 12.2 | 13.2 |
| 9th to 12th grade, no diploma | 11.1 | 11.9 | 10.5 |
| High school graduate (includes equivalency) | 27.6 | 27.7 | 27.4 |
| Some college, no degree | 14.1 | 13.6 | 14.6 |
| Associate's degree | 8 | 6.9 | 9 |
| Bachelor's degree | 16.8 | 17.4 | 16.3 |
| Graduate or professional degree | 9.6 | 10.3 | 9 |
| Percent high school graduate or higher | 76.2 | 75.9 | 76.4 |
| Percent bachelor's degree or higher | 26.5 | 27.7 | 25.3 |
| Population 25 to 34 years | 290,651 | 146,356 | 144,295 |
| High school graduate or higher | 84.6 | 81.5 | 87.7 |
| Bachelor's degree or higher | 28.1 | 24.6 | 31.6 |
| Population 35 to 44 years | 375,753 | 187,012 | 188,741 |
| High school graduate or higher | 84.8 | 83.6 | 86.1 |
| Bachelor's degree or higher | 30.5 | 30 | 31 |
| Population 45 to 64 years | 583,986 | 277,374 | 306,612 |
| High school graduate or higher | 78.4 | 77.5 | 79.2 |
| Bachelor's degree or higher | 26.8 | 29.7 | 24.3 |
| Population 65 years and over | 341,525 | 141,003 | 200,522 |
| High school graduate or higher | 55.6 | 57 | 54.6 |
| Bachelor's degree or higher | 20 | 24.2 | 17 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2006. Miami-Dade County, Department of Planning and Zoning 2008.